Voting of Demands for Grants.—(*contd.*)
Demand No. IX.—Forests.—Rs. 2,11,110. (*contd.*)
Motions Nos. 6—8.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To omit the allotment of Rs. 13,065 for "purchase and capture of Elephants".*

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,065, for "4 (b) Purchase of Elephants, etc.," by Rs. 3,065.*

Mr. M. K. Raman.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,065 for "capture and feeding, etc., of Elephants' by Re. 1.*

Deputy President.—All the three motions, Nos. 6, 7 and 8 are token motions, and they may be considered together.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Sir, I have given almost all the reasons yesterday why the elephant-capturing should be conducted on a commercial basis. I have shown that the mere capturing of the elephants and selling them would be a source of profit to the Department. But the present system of keeping all these small tuskers for a number of years involves a heavy expenditure, and hence it is a loss from a commercial point of view. With your permission, one point which I wish to bring to the notice of the House is that, in dealing with this Department in the budget estimate, the price of the elephants that are transferred to the temples, etc., is not included. Of course, it is His Highness' prerogative, and it is injustice to speak of it. When we are discussing it, that item also must be considered in calculating the profit or loss. From all these points of view, it would be seen that capturing of elephants on a commercial basis is not a success; and the present system is a loss to the State. Therefore, the Party proposes to bring to the notice of the Government that the object of this cut motion is to record its opinion that the non-commercial method is responsible for the loss sustained. We would like to press the motion, so that the Government may be impressed with the fact, and we may make them take necessary action hereafter.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Cut motion No. 6 may be converted into a token motion of Re. 1, and Motion No. 8 is a token motion already.

Deputy President.—They do not want to discontinue elephant capture; but what they want is that it should be done on a commercial basis.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—It is not possible to put a stop to the elephant capture.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—We do not want to put a stop to it.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Can you secure any profit out of this enterprise?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Even now nobody can catch one.

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Mr. A. B. Salem.—My question is will you run it on a commercial basis; will you do it, that is the question.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—It cannot be definitely said that we could accept that proposition.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Travancore makes profit out of it. It is not efficiently done here. Will you do that in future?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The Hon'ble Member for Nellayi will testify in the estate of his uncle how many pits there are and how many elephants have been captured for the last half a dozen years. It is only chance. It cannot be done on a commercial basis.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—That is not the point. When once you capture, will you deal with it on a commercial basis?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Elephants do not come and fall into the pits always.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—After capture.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—That is what is being done now.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Useful tuskers are kept for 20 and 30 years. We have to incur expenses for keeping them. By that time they may die also. If they are sold as soon as they are caught, then we can realise a capital value.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Men die; it is no wonder that elephants also die. We have 4 or 5 tuskers.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—They may die.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Men die and it is quite natural that elephants also die. Government will have no objection to consider that point. That is all what can be done.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Will you run it on a commercial basis?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—We shall try. Is it an allegation that we are not doing it, Sir?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I do not think that you are doing it intentionally. When you capture an elephant, you keep it for 20 years and sell it for Rs. 200. It is not a commercial proposition.

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—But it has capital value.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I know it. A grand value you get after keeping it for 20 years after capturing!

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—We won't commit ourselves to such a policy. We are trying our best.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—In concluding the debate I would press it.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The Conservator is the person more competent to speak on this.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—I have said what I had to say in the matter.

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Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Regarding the operations to capture, no operation will be more successful than the present pit system.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I want the vote of the House on the question that it is not run upon a commercial basis, and that it should be run on a commercial basis if possible as a profitable enterprise and not waste money. That is all the point.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—I second it. I think it is necessary that the matter should be gone into. We do not want to run losing concerns.

Deputy President.—You say that the elephant-capturing operations may be conducted on a commercial basis.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Not as a losing concern as it is done now. On a profitable basis. This one rupee cut is to press upon the Government that elephant-capture must be run upon a commercial basis as they do in Travancore.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—The words 'commercial basis', I think, may be changed into 'business-like basis'.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Surely it ought to be investigated, and is there any objection to do it?

Deputy President.—Why not put it as that 'it should run on better lines?

Question put:—"*That elephant capture should be conducted on business-like lines.*"

Question put and agreed to, the officials not voting.

Dr A. R. Menon.—Sir, I have no insinuation against any one in using the words 'commercial basis'. We will blurt out openly. What I meant was only that elephant-capture should be conducted as a business proposition.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Sir, you should also add that the official block alone is not voting.

Motion No. 9.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 12,000 for '6, Organisation, etc,' by Re. 1.*

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Sir, I tabled this cut motion just to bring to the notice of the Government the hardship felt by the people of the State by the retention of the B. Form permit. This permit says that, if people want to cut and remove fuel, etc., from their own *parambas*, they must get the permission of a number of forest officials, by signature, counter-signature, etc. The formalities are many, tedious and even expensive. The delay in getting permission is sometimes maddening. When sudden deaths take place, the body has to be kept till the necessary permit is obtained, which may take even a week or more, or the corpse must be taken to the place where the fuel can be had. A more sorrow-

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ful and sacrilegious condition cannot be imagined. And all this is to remove fuel from one's own *paramba*.

The Government framed certain rules and invited public criticism as early as 1925. I brought to the notice of the Government even then that this permit must be abolished, if not, at least the counter-signature system may be done away with. The Government has been slow to move, as usual, in such matters, and nothing has been done as yet, even though the attention of the Government was drawn to this fact many a time in the first Council, to alleviate the suffering of the people. This hardship is very keenly felt in Nemmara where there is a large number of Brahmin villages, who could only cremate their dead.

With the permission of the Council, I withdraw the motion. I wanted only to bring this fact to the notice of the Government.

(*The motion was withdrawn with leave.*)

Motion No. 10.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 12,000 for 'Demarcation and Survey' by Rs. 1,000.*

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Sir, I move to reduce Rs. 1,000 out of Rs. 12,000 allotted for survey expenses. It would be found from the budget, page 30, that in 1102 we spent only Rs. 1,175 for demarcation, and from the revised estimate for 1103 we have spent only Rs. 5,170 and in 1104 we have got Rs. 12,000 being asked for the same purpose. I have had no sufficient explanation forthcoming in the Standing Finance Committee, and if sufficient explanation is forthcoming, I might withdraw my cut. Otherwise I press my cut to a division.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—On what lines do you base your suggestions?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—On the previous years' figures.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—May I know why exactly you bring in a cut for Rs. 1,000? It is Rs. 1,000 and odd in one year, and Rs. 5,000 and odd in another year. Why should you cut it only by Rs. 1,000 now?

Deputy President.—Both are in the dark.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I ask for information.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Why should it not be Rs. 6,000?

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—It should be Rs. 7,000 if this cut is intended to omit the allotment for that particular item of work.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—Against the revised budget estimate of Rs. 2,622 for 1102 the actuals of that year amount to Rs. 1,175. Deficit in the actuals is due to the fact that exclu-

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sion works in Talappalli could not be taken up in that year, due to less amount of exclusion work in other places. In 1104 the amount of Rs. 12,000 has been provided for the reason that greater exclusion work has been proposed to be taken up, and survey of the existing rubber plantations. It comes to Rs. 5,000.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—I ask how many acres that is for?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—This Rs. 5,000?

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—What is the acreage that is to be surveyed?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—About 10,000 acres.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—With Rs. 5,000?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—I cannot say. This is only a lump provision.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Is it a simple survey or a detailed survey?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—It is for a detailed survey.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Are there roads, buildings and everything of that kind put in and can you get a detailed survey for 8 annas an acre? Well, if it is only for a general survey, surely it could be done with less than Rs. 5,000. A detailed survey with buildings and everything could not be done with 8 annas an acre.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—We want only a survey for assessment.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Then why should it cost Rs. 5,000?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—There is no detailed estimate forthcoming.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Why should you not have worked it out on regular estimates?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—That was my contention in the Standing Finance Committee.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—You put a lump sum of Rs. 5,000 and say that the money is going to be spent out of it.

Deputy President.—The approximate area to be surveyed is 10,000 acres.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—It is more than 10,000 acres.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—If the Government have not got every definite information, they should not ask for provisions, neither the Conservator nor the Secretariat.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—I have not got correct statistics here. I have not come prepared with the details.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Sir, I may bring it to your notice that

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this matter was discussed in the Standing Finance Committee on the 18th of July, and when I asked for this information, the information was not there. And then I tabled this cut motion with the same request for information, and the information is not here. Therefore, I think this cut should be pressed to a division here.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Was this information definitely asked for ?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Yes. The matter may be put to the vote. We have heard the Hon'ble Member for Planters.

Deputy President.—It is only for 10,000 acres. It is certainly a much higher figure.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—They can come for an additional demand with definite information. Since they have no definite information we cut.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—When Rs. 5,000 is required you are asking for Rs. 12,000.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Who is doing this survey ? Is it the Government ? Then what is this Rs. 12,000 for ? We pay there 8 annas an acre. He provides his coolies, his own people. Give me a detailed estimate for houses, buildings and every other things. Here Government wants Rs. 12,000 for demarcating the area. Who is doing it ? Is it the paid servants ? What is this Rs. 12,000 for ? Is that for labour or not ?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—The extent of the rubber plantation is 13,008 acres. It is not actually for labour alone.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—There is a man who would do it for 8 as, and make a profit out of it. You have got your own staff, and you are giving the Department more than a professional man would charge. Have you got any surveyors ?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—They have.

Deputy President.—We have no staff.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—We will have to engage additional staff.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—I grant it. What about the other staff which you have got already ? Taking in additional staff means you would want double the cost.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—I do not think so.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Sir, you may put it to votes. We are to finish so many items.

Deputy President.—You cannot give the area ?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—It is 13,008 acres.

Deputy President.—At 8 annas it would come to only Rs. 6,000.

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Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Only Rs. 5,000 is provided for re-survey of the rubber estate.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—What is the area of the rubber estate?

Deputy President.—It is 13,008 acres.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—I may tell you how this Rs. 12,000 was arrived at. For exclusion work in Talappalli Taluk Rs. 3,000, land clearing in Talappalli Taluk Rs. 1,000, compound clearing for State forest and adjoining Rs. 1,000 and then survey for rubber plantations Rs. 5,000. And the total comes to Rs. 12,000.

Deputy President.—So this Rs. 5,000 provided is for 13,000 and odd acres. I do not think there is anything in excess there. It is only Rs. 5,000 for surveying 13,000 and odd acres.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I withdraw with the consent of the House though I am very reluctant to do it.

(*The motion was, with leave, withdrawn.*)

Motion No. 11.

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,000 for "item Sowing and planting' by Rs. 5,000.*

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—I rise to move for the reduction first on principle and secondly from an economic standpoint. On principle I say that the Department has been destroying the forest wholesale. When I think of the policy adopted by the Department, I think of the hen that lays golden eggs. It has been a wholesale destruction in forest areas with no corresponding benefit to the Government.

From the economic standpoint I raise the objection that the contracts given by the Department are not made publicly known.

Deputy President.—Is it in connection with sowing and planting? You confine yourself to that subject.

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—I had also tabled one or two motions but to confine myself to sowing and planting I may say that the system obtaining in Travancore is that the area for planting is given to private agencies for a certain period during which time they raise staple crops and they return all timber extractions from the allotted area to the Government, and within the specified period they plant the whole area and maintain it. Whereas the system obtaining here is otherwise. The extractions of all timber go to the private agent who cultivates the area. That entails a great loss to the Government. I request that the Department will hereafter adopt the system obtaining in Travancore.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—There is no objection to do that, if men are forthcoming.

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Dr. A. G. Menon.—It should be done by public auction.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Yes.

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—I submit that the Divisional Forest Officer in this respect has put in his report saying that the plantation work hitherto conducted is unsatisfactory. Further there was no enquiry made as to this work, and the system hitherto obtaining was to be discontinued.

Deputy President.—What is that for?

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—My purpose is that the plantation work practically may be given to private agents, and that it should not be conducted by the Department.

Deputy President.—So it is for that purpose you have brought this cut motion?

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—Yes. The misfortune is that the plantation work is not given to private agents. This year the Government have allotted Rs. 15,000 and odd. In Travancore cost of planting comes to only 4 annas an acre but here it comes to Rs. 40 to Rs. 50 per acre. Is it not a sheer waste?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—Whenever private agencies come forward to take up the work, their requests are considered, if their terms are agreeable.

As planting work is one of great importance, it cannot be entrusted to a man, who has no experience in planting work. It is true that Rs. 15,000 is provided under this head. But out of this Rs. 15,000 some amount goes to the maintenance of plantations, I mean the old plantations. This comes to Rs. 10,715; Rs. 8,815 is for the maintenance of old plantations, Rs. 1,800 for fire-tracing old plantations; 50 rupess for maintenance of sandal-wood plantation at Machad and Rs. 50 for survey of plantations. For the new planting work we have provided only Rs. 4,285 for about 100 acres at about 40 rupees per acre.

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—I press for a cut of Rs. 5,000 on the whole item.

Deputy President.—The whole of Rs. 15,000 and odd is not for sowing and planting. Only Rs. 4,000 and odd goes to sowing and planting.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—The amount of Rs. 15,000 is for sowing, planting and for maintenance of old plantations, etc.

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—In the budget it is put as Rs. 15,000 for sowing and planting.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I rise to support this motion. Sir, the "Tonkeya" System introduced into the State of Travancore runs like this. When a certain forest area is leased or contracted for plantation, the Government will remove all the valuable timber from the given area first and then the jungle-wood remaining there will be sold out in auction. Thus the Govern-

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ment take the valuable timber and also the proceeds from the auction sale of the jungle-wood. Then the area alone, that is, the ground is given to the contractor to raise crops for a period of 5 years with the agreement to plant the whole area in return. A fifth of this portion is planted in the first year and crop is raised by him on the remaining portion. In the next year another fifth portion is planted and the rest is cultivated. Thus by the end of the 5th year, the whole area is planted. The Government there have now begun to realise a sum of Rs. 2-8-0 per acre for raising this crop. They do the plantation work and besides also pay Rs. 2-8-0 per acre. In forest areas it will produce very well, and as a result the contractors will be big gainers still. Not only they do all the plantation work but maintain it also all these five years. The Government, therefore, gets the timber, the price of the jungle-wood and Rs. 2-8-0 per acre besides. They also see that the entire area is properly planted and maintained at the expense of the planter before the period of five years is over. In our State, on the other hand, what is done is otherwise. The whole forest growth, and all the valuable timber there are given to the contractor. In return what he does is to plant this area within a period of 2 years. He raises crops, takes away all the timber and the forest growth and the Government get nothing at all; our system, therefore, ends in a big loss. My purpose is to call the attention of the Government to the Tonkeya system got adopted in Travancore with very great success and to request them to introduce this system into our State also, in which case, we can be very big gainers. My Party has made this cut motion into a Party question with a view to insist upon the Government to start at once the Tonkeya system of plantation here which is found to be so very successful in Travancore. It may be considered as a token motion.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—We are considering the matter and we have written to the Travancore Forest Department. We are going to try that system in our State.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—You are going to adopt that?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—We shall adopt it.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Government won't object to such a profitable arrangement.

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—On the assurance given by the Government I withdraw the motion with the leave of the House.

(*The motion was withdrawn with leave.*)

Motion No. 12.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,877 for 'other works' by Re. 1.*

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Mr. A. B. Salem.—This cut has been tabled for the purpose of bringing to the notice of the Government that timber inside the forest measuring 14 *vannams* and above only is classed as timber, and timber below 14 *vannams* is classed as toplings. May I know what is meant by 14 *vannams* ?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—Quarter girth.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—14 *vannams*, how many inches girth ?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—It is 16 inches girth.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Whatever it is, Sir, any timber above 8 *vannams*, is considered as timber. And here what we find is that 2,000 candies of rose-wood below 14 *vannams*—it may be that almost all of them may be 13 *vannams*, 12 *vannams*, and none below 8 or 9 *vannams*—have been given off as toplings.

In the matter of classification you treat logs below 14 *vannams* as toplings and those above 14 *vannams* as timber. There are two disadvantages in making this classification. Firstly it is wrong to do so, because we lose money. Secondly, when toplings are brought down the Tramway, the rate is only half of that for timber. Now when logs below 14 *vannams* and above 8 *vannams* come as toplings, we lose a large sum of money in the working of the Tramway. It is necessarily so. And we also find one identical contractor is resorted to, namely, Mr. Mugaseth, to whom we find large discounts are given. For it is not possible to understand how and when it is brought down the Tramway. There is a large difference between the measurement at the Hill Depot and the measurement when it is brought down to the plains. They say the timber dwindles and shrinks, so that when it comes to the plains 2,000 or 4,000 candies are not found.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—That is due to the defect in the timber concerned.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Whatever it is, the question was asked by the Hon'ble Member for Jenmies yesterday, and he had made a statement in this House showing the difference between the Hill Depot measurement and the Plain Depot measurement. Now, by the terms of the contract, the contractor was bound to accept the Hill Depot measruement. The terms of the contract had been discussed on the floor of this House, and I say the contractor is bound to accept the Hill Depot measurement. That is one point that I wished to bring to the notice of this House and the Government. Now, this should be stopped. We bring this to your notice for this purpose, namely, a log having this girth should never be allowed as topling, because at least we will get the transport charges.

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Deputy President.—Is there difference in transport charges between timber and these toplings so far as Tramway is concerned ?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—There is difference. Logs below 14 *vannams* are regarded as toplings for the purpose of transport charges.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—What is the difference in the value ?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—Timber below 14 *vannams* is charged at the rate of Rs. 10 a candy and above 14 *vannams* at Rs. 18 a candy.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—If it is 13 *vannams* ?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—Then it will be classed as toplings and charged as such.

Deputy President.—He is saying about the transport charges, not the value.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—What is the difference between the two ? Let them state it here .

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—The rate for topling is only half that of timber.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—So, it is a fact !

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know from the Hon'ble Member for Forests what *vannam* is taken as topling so far as this Tramway is concerned ?

Deputy President.—All below 14 *vannams*.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—It is all the same so far as this Tramway is concerned.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—You can ascertain this from the Tramway Engineer.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—I find this difference only in the case of this particular contract.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—We are losing much time.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—This is an important matter, Ordinarily when a man brings down timber, if the timber is above 8 *vannams*, what will be the Tramway charge ?

Deputy President.—That will depend upon the terms of the contract.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—It depends upon the terms of particular contracts.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Sir, why is topling of 56 inches girth treated as topling ? Why is it not treated as timber ? Will you answer that, please ?

Deputy President.—He says that is only in regard to this particular contract.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—On a point of information. Are we to understand that this differentiation is peculiar to this contract ?

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Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—Yes.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—What is the general rule about this topling and timber?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—Generally all logs above 6 *vannams* are taken as timber.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Why this differentiation, please?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—To give special concessions to one contractor.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—I must say I am not responsible for this. This was not done by me. This is what the records show.

Deputy President.—You press the motion?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I press this motion, Sir. This is an undue preference given to a particular contractor and opposed to established principles and rectitude in the department. We do not press the other points.

Deputy President.—What is the amount?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—One rupee.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Enough is left.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Before you put the motion to the vote of the House, I wish also to bring to the Durbar's notice that there was an investigation of the particular contract regarding 60 thousand candies. When the contracts were running and the measurements were taken there was no possibility of getting the depot measurement from the Conservator's office. The Government deputed the Comptroller of Accounts and he went down there and he could not find the measurement there. Then the depot from where these timbers were delivered was looked into. The measurements were there and it was found that there was a difference of Rs. 20,000.

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—Government did not depute the Comptroller for that purpose.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I understand whether no audit was made?

Deputy President.—He did not go.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I want to know whether the Comptroller has got any information, whether the audit was done by himself or by his subordinates.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The Local Audit Staff according to their usual programme went and audited there.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—What is the difference found?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The final report has not been received by the Government.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Then I press the motion, to show the disapproval of this House for showing preference to certain contractors.

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The motion was put and agreed to, the Government opposing it.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—It may be noted that the officials alone were against.

Motion No. 13.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,61,895 for 'Conservancy and works' by Re. 1.*

Deputy President.—Then let us pass on to the next motion. Motion No. 13.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Sir, the object of this motion is to insist upon the Government that hereafter every sale of timber should be by public auction and due notice should be given before that.

Deputy President.—Have you any objection to that?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—Even now we are inviting tenders.

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—Tender is confidential.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—We want public auction with due notice.

(*There were several voices and nothing could audibly be heard.*)

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—When the Proceedings of this day are published, I hope Members will not blame the reporters. If more than one speak at a time, it is impossible to correctly report. There is no use of finding fault with the Secretary also.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—The Secretary means *all* the Members?

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—I only said Members. If the cap fits any one in particular, let him take it.

Deputy President.—So you want to insist upon sale by public auction of timber?

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—May I add 'in the plains'? If it be in the hills it will be very difficult.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—In certain cases the timber will be in the interior of the forests, and in that case we won't be able to get bidders. The transport of it to the plains will be very expensive.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—You can give work to the Tramway.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—If I had time, I would have shown to this House that, in every case of tenders, there had been very few bidders, and every case has been successful to the Government.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Is this cut motion confined to

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the area tapped by the Tramway?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—No.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—Forest Code, Section 111 empowers the Conservator to call for public tenders or to sell timber by public auction or private contract.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—That power we want to change. You can issue a correction slip, Sir.

Deputy President.—Do the Government accept it?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Why don't you add 'wherever possible'?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Then there will be no meaning.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Then the exception will be the law.

Deputy President.—So the sale should take place in the plains?

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—Then there will be a loss. We will have to incur a large amount for transport charges.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—That is compensated by the sale proceeds by public auction.

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—Even in that case it will be a loss.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—In Travancore, there is a provision for a tariff rate, and people who want to buy timber can get it in public depots.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—We have no tariff rate.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—We have only seigniorage charges.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I press the motion to a division *i. e.*, 'all sales should be by public auction in the plains'.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—'Whenever possible' may be added

Deputy President.—They are objecting to it.

Question put:—"*That all sales of timber should be by public auction in the plains.*"

Question put and agreed to, Government opposing it.

Motion No 14.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 14,016 for "office establishment of the Conservator" by Re. 1.*

(*The motion was considered withdrawn.*)

Motion No. 15.

Mr. P. C. Chanchan.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 2,31,900 under 'Demand No. IX' by Re. 1.*

(*Since the motion was not pressed, it was considered withdrawn.*)

Motion No. 16.

Mr. A. S. Harihara Ayyar,—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 2,34,900 by Re. 1,*

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(*The Member being absent, the motion was considered withdrawn.*)

Motion No. 17.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 2,31,900 under 'Demand No. IX' by Re. 1.*

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Sir, this cut motion is tabled to draw the attention of the Government to the vexatious restrictions imposed in the matter of growing timber as well as cutting them down. Last year, the Leader of our Party tabled a resolution to call the attention of the Government to these vexatious restrictions, but unfortunately he was not successful in getting the motion passed. Therefore, we thought it better to bring this matter to the notice of the Government by a token motion. Now, if anybody has got good timber in his compound, instead of being a blessing and benefit, it has become a source of vexation to him. Whenever you propose to sell the monopoly of trees in assigned lands, you simply issue a notification in the Gazette, which nobody, at least in ninety-nine cases out of hundred in the Cochin State, takes the trouble to read, and on the strength of that notice, one of the agents of the Forest Department or one of the contractors enters into your compound without asking your leave even, and cuts down the trees, and when he is asked why he does so, he will say you will find such and such a notification in the Gazette. Here is a notification in my possession which was issued in the month of Mithunam 1102. Last month the agent of the Forest Department, the contractor, came into the compound and cut down the trees, and when he was asked why he does so, he simply showed this sheet as authority. Well, Sir, in our parts, my ancestors used to treat this action in a different manner. Those good old days are gone, and we are more and more civilized. Therefore, we are compelled to come to this House and express our grievances, our shame, and I must say it is a most indecent way of treating His Highness' subjects. A contractor coming down from Coimbatore or any other place enters the compound and cuts down the trees as he pleases! Here is the notification. Please listen. "Notice is hereby given to the *pattadars* of the several villages of the Chittur Taluk to the north of the Chittur river (C and D beats of the Chittur *Kanom*) that the monopoly trees in their assigned lands have been proposed to be sold, and if any of them desire to purchase the trees in their respective holdings at Rs. 10—4—0 per candy of teak, Rs. 12 per candy of thumble or rose-wood and annas 14 per cart-load of the resultant fuel forfeiting compensation amounts due to them on such trees, they should put in their requests to that effect before 30th Mithunam

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1102 corresponding to 14th July 1927, Thursday, failing which the trees will be disposed of otherwise. Requests, if any, received thereafter will not be taken notice of. (Sd) K. Ramunni Menon, Divisional Forest Officer." Are you justified in acquiring territory by issuing notices like this? A man is entering your compound, cutting down your trees without even asking your leave. The Forest Department has become a sort of nuisance to us.

The Forest Department is a sort of annoyance to the people and it is offering insult. Therefore, we thought the best way of solving this difficulty will be to follow the principle adopted in British territories and do away with this monopoly system. There is another reason, that is, we are restricting an industry which ought to thrive. There was a proposal, and the Superintendent of Agriculture accepted that this tax should be done away with. So long as this tax is put upon us, there shall not be encouragement in this industry. In British Malabar there are 40 to 50 trees standing, and in the Cochin State what we generally do is to destroy these small trees. Therefore, it is better for the Government to consider the question from the various aspects and to make its position clear. The proposal has nothing to do with royalty. We are only for the economic regeneration so far as this line is concerned, and for viewing this question and taking the necessary measures in order to avoid the grievances and the extending of blows. It would be much better for the Forest Department to issue necessary instructions before they are allowed to enter into the compound. Otherwise the police will have to do more work.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Do you mean Rs. 12 per candy or 12 Rs. per tree?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—Rs. 12 per candy.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Here the Government is selling at Rs. 10 and Rs. 18.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—May I correct you, Sir? Rs. 10—4—0 per candy of teak and Rs. 12 per candy of thumble.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—What about toplings? What do you propose the charge to be?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Fourteen annas per cartload. That is the rate they charge.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—The trees are cut after measurement.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—All above four *vannams* are considered as timber and below four *vannams* as toplings. The other day lots of petitions were received from the Chittur Taluk, and they want to sell the trees for converting the *paramba* into paddy fields, and also to avoid growing this.

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Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—We allow 15 per cent, and if they are sold at the instance of the Government, at 25 per cent. It is considered to be a monopoly to the Government over the people.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—We are ready to give *kuttikanom*, or seigniorage whatever that may be. Why not allow us to grow and cut them?

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—This timber costs him more than what he has to pay at the Government Depot. Certainly it must be a loss. It comes to Rs. 19 per candy.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—Certain rules for making the modification are submitted along with the Special Finance Committee's report. And such rules will be modified.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—These rules were published in 1925.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—They are undergoing revision. Rules and Regulations will take their own time.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I want this monopoly system to be done away with on higher grounds.

Deputy President.—But seigniorage may be paid.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—But I say that nobody shall have the right of entering my compound at any time without notification previously made.

Deputy President.—Removing the monopoly and putting something nominal?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Taking away the monopoly of these trees will be very serious. Instead of that it can be understood that Mr. Menon is for putting an end to the seigniorage system.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—I say *kuttikanom*.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Is there no difference between *kuttikanom* and seigniorage?

Dr. A. G. Menon.—You may use, as I use, *kuttikanom*.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—Yes.

Deputy President.—Felling the trees by paying a *kuttikanom* on payment of a royalty.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Those trees like teak and rose-wood standing in private compounds may be allowed to be cut off by the owners by payment of a small royalty to the Government. We say it may be a small royalty.

Deputy President.—Please give it once more. I want the exact wording once more.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—That all monopoly trees standing in private grounds may be allowed to be cut off on payment of a royalty.

Mr. T. K. Nayar.—What about the future?

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Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—That means hereafter also. There is no objection.

Question put:—"*That all monopoly trees standing on private compounds might be permitted to be cut off by the owners of such compounds on payment of a royalty, to be fixed by Government*".

Question put and agreed to.

Question put:—"*That a sum of Rs. 2,11,110 minus Rs. 15,004 under 'Demand No. IX—Forests' be granted.*'

Question put and agreed to.

Demand No. X—Tramway—Rs. 1,09,568.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—Sir, I beg to move for a grant of Rs. 1,14,600 for the expenditure in connection with the maintenance of the Tramway (Demand No. X) for 1104. The revised estimate for 1103 being Rs. 1,24, 700, the demand for the ensuing year is less by Rs. 10,000. As I have already explained at some length when speaking on the Demand under 'Forest' on the justification and necessity for the continuance of the Tramway for the ensuing year, and as a substantial net profit of over a lakh is expected, I hope I need not say anything further to commend this demand for your acceptace. Explanations for the principal variation between the figures for 1103 and 1104 are given below.

The increase of Rs. 500, Rs. 1,700 and Rs. 550 under "Ballast and cess filling", "maintenance of bridges" and "annual repairs to buildings" respectively are due to the fact that, since it had been contemplated to close the Tramway by Medam 1103, the expenditure under the above items was kept as low as possible, meeting the unavoidable items alone. A wire rope for the Inclines has to be purchased, which was not necessary last year. Hence the increase of Rs. 3,000 under "Stores".

If any further details are required, I shall be glad to furnish them. With these remarks, I would request the House to pass the demand under this item in full.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—On a point of information, Sir. In 1103 according to the revised estimate the receipts come to Rs. 48,500, while for 1104 it is only Rs. 15,000. May I know why this big reduction?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—Last year we allowed private transport.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Don't you expect it this year?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—No private transport.

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Motion No. 1.
Repairs and reuewals.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,000 for 'sleepers' by Rs. 8,000.*

President.—Motion No. 1 by Mr. M. K. Raman.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—It has been stated very often in the previous Councils that the Tramway is a 'White Elephant' and that it should be abolished and that we should save all the money now spent on the running of the Tramway. I understand that Rs. 10,000 is allotted for purchase of sleepers, and I know that the Government were also going to do away with the Tramway. Some people offered to take up the Tram on lease and the matter was considered and is perhaps pending. When things are going on like this, I do not find any reason why you should purchase Rs. 10,000 worth of sleepers for so short a period. So it is desirable to cut that amount by Rs. 8,000, so that if any sleepers are absolutely necessary to run the Tramway line, for the present the sum of Rs. 2,000 may be sufficient.

Deputy President.—How long should it last?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—The whole of 1104.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Every year should we purchase Rs. 10,000 worth of sleepers, all of them for replacing?

Mr. M. K. Raman.—We want 152 per mile for 55 miles. That will come to how much? Say over 6,000 sleepers, and what will be the cost of one sleeper?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—Re. 1—2—6.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Does the forest supply these?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—It is given on contract.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—What is the timber out of which the sleepers are made?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—It includes everything.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—What is the cubical contents of a sleeper?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—1·6 cubic foot.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—What is the actual number of sleepers that are used for replacement?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—2,640 sleepers per mile and 152 sleepers on an average for replacement.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—The answers should come from the Member.

Motion No. 2.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,000 for 'sleepers' by Rs. 8,000.*

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Sir, I wish to know whether the same percentage is renewed every year.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—152 sleepers per mile only.

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Mr. A. B. Salem.—I have only a few questions to ask, and if proper answers are given, I don't wish to move. Has any *Churul* sleeper been used at any time since the Tramway was brought into existence?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—No.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Why are you trying to use *Churul* now?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—They are cheaper.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—When you only require cheaper timber, why do you want the same allotment?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—A greater number of sleepers have to be replaced.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—That is the only way to answer it. What is the number of sleepers per mile to be replaced?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—Number of sleepers that require renewal is about 30,000.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Nineteen thousand have been budgeted for. How many sleepers per mile on an average?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—152 per mile for last year.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Then why do you want more money?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—We want 19,000 this year.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—What was the number last year?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—Last year it was 10,240.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—What do you do with the old sleepers? They are not disposed of.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The cost of bringing them down will be more than the actual proceeds.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know whether you have given out the contracts already for 19,000?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—We have not given the contract.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I do not wish to press.

(*Hence it was considered withdrawn.*)

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Though it is not a serious matter to the Government it will be very serious to us and very useful. I withdraw the motion.

(*The motion was, with leave, withdrawn.*)

Motions Nos. 3–9.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 45,291 for 'maintenance of ways and works, etc.' by Re. 1.*

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To omit the allotment of Rs. 15,000 for 'fuel'.*

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To omit the allotment of Rs. 200 for 'furniture'.*

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E. General and Miscellaneous.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To omit the allotment of Rs 4,800 for 'scarcity allowance'.*

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.— *To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,09,568 for 'tramway'.*

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 1,14,600 under Demand No. 10 by Rs. 1,14,600 (whole allotment).*

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,09 568 for 'Tramway' by Re. 1*

Deputy President.—Motion No. 3.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I avail myself of this motion to congratulate the Government on their decision to continue the Tramway which has come in for a lot of unreasonable criticism and blame as a 'White Elephant'. The Government have, I say, rightly decided to run the Tramway for a few years more. I understand, Sir, that lately the Tramway Engineer Mr. King did point out to the Government that the Tramway could be worked with a profit varying from Rs. 15 to Rs. 30,000 if the Tramway and the forests tapped by it are leased to private agencies. If this is a fact then there is no gainsaying that there do exist some mystery or rather some hidden secret connected with the present administration of the Tramway Department. The self-same gentleman Mr. King was administering it all these years with continued loss to the Government. Is it because the Government are not as fit as the private agencies to work out the Tramway properly resulting in profit? I say there is something rotten in the transaction, something unwholesome in its present administration, and I assert it is high time that matters were set right.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—I have no records. He may have his own information.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Do you contradict my statement?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Has he applied to the Government to that effect?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—I do not know.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Is this the way to treat the House? Yes or no will be the correct answer. He is the Secretary in the Huzur Office.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—In my opinion the Tramway could be run by the Government alone, with success, for a few years to come. I understand the Forest Department has proposed to collect about 12,000 candies of valuable timber and Rs. 18,000 worth of junglewood during the year 1104. Let us now calculate their conveyance charges at the rates 0-3-9 and 0-2-6 per mile per candy of these two kinds of timber from the forest to the plains. It will be over a lakh and odd of rupees. This amount ought to

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be shown under receipts of the Tramway Department deducting the same from the income of the Forest Department as is done now in the budget. The Tramway being considered as a hand-maid of the Forest the legitimate earning of this maid is not accounted for properly. If a correct system of accounting is adopted according to the calculations I have pointed out, it will be seen that our Tramway can be run with profit.

I also understand that there are lots of misc-alculations made in the measurement of timber before and after it is transported. In the first place large concessions are shown in the case of the contractors collecing timber in the forest, with the result that they are permitted to fell down timber standing nearest the Tramline, without any regard being paid to the useless nature or quality or size of the timber. The Tram is thus made to transport such stuff as will not fetch, during the sales, even the conveying charges of the timber. Is it then any wonder that the present working of the Tramway ends in loss rather than in gain? The Government do not also give the maximum load always—about 10 candies or so for a waggon. If only two candies are loaded in a waggon with a capacity to hold ten tons, naturally it can end only in loss. If the maximum quantity that can be brought are taken during each trip of the Tram, surely there can be no reason for a loss (*hear, hear*). If the contractor responsible to collect the timber do not supply the maximum that may be loaded into the waggons he ought to be taken to task. Instead of that why put all the blame on the innocent Tramway? If the maximum that could be brought by the Tramwry is actually brought and the measurement is carefully and correctly taken, there is absolutely no chance for the Tramway to run at a loss.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Quite right.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Another point is whether our forests are already exhausted and there are not enough valuable trees there to be brought down to the plains. If my information is correct—I don't know—I understand from the people who had been to these forests that there are still any amount of timber to be got down for at least a period of seven years to come. I submit myself to correction, if this fact is not true. Has anybody surveyed the contents of our forests? If a survey is held by a responsible person, it will reveal to us one side of the mystery and show that our Tramway should never be leased to private agencies. Government itself can work it with success. If this is done, such a lot of people of my constituency would have the consolation to see that they do not come under the control of any hard task-master. All labourers would be provided with work. Therefore, it will not be correct to take the policy suggested by the Finance Committee in their report and discontinue the Tram or

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lease it to private persons as pointed out by Mr. King. If this scheme has really to be discontinued at all, then an expert, if possible Mr. Grebb himself, ought to be consulted and a proper survey of the forest made before anything is finally decided upon. The Government will also do well to keep an eye, a strict watch, over the items of expenditure of this Department meanwhile. A peep into the present administration may perhaps reveal the other side of the mystery too. Let us leave no stone unturned!

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—May I say a few words? I think it is the fault of the Government that this Tramway does not pay. If the forests supply the requisite quantity of timber at the right time, surely they would not be run at a loss. It is the fault of the Government, if the forests cannot supply the necessary material. If it is leased to private agencies to run on contract, they would run on business lines. It is not run on business lines at present.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Why not?

Mr A. B. Salem.—It is nobody's business.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—It is inefficiency, nothing else.

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—I also rise to support the motion. Since 12 or 15 thousand candies of timber are carried by the Tramway and if you calculate the rate that amount itself will come to more than a lakh, because the rate per mile is 3 as. 9 pies and the Tramway carries 44 miles. Hence the rate is Rs.11 per candy. If you multiply that amount by 12,000 that amount itself will come to nearly a lakh. Not only that, the Member for Forests admits Rs. 33,000 have been realised from the Tramway by private agency. That amount has also to be calculated. There is also the carriage of jungle-wood and all that. That is Rs. 8,000 this year. Calculating all these amounts we get a substantial amount, whereas in the budget you get only Rs. 15,000 as receipts. Again, certain items are included under the head "Tramway". It seems they are carrying coal and firewood. I say it is carrying coals to Newcastle. Water also is being carried to the hills. All those are unnecessary items which are non-recurring expenditure. As to sleepers they are very much below the mark. They just cut down some branches and put sleepers and budget Rs. 10,000 for sleepers. That is generally done there. Touching all these points, it is essential to appoint a committee to enquire into the working of the Forests and Tramway. (*Hear, hear.*) Or else, cut away the whole forests, sell the produce and give lands to the poor. That would be more profitable.

Motion No. 8.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 1,14,600 under "Demand No. X" by Rs. 1,14,600 (whole amount.)*

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Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—I wish to say one or two words since there is a cut standing in my name, cut No. 8 to reduce the total allotment of Rs. 1,14,600 under Demand No. X by the whole amount. Of course I am not moving separately. I want to support this motion and in connection with that, I want to say one or two words. The same ground will have to be travelled by me also.

Sir, you will be pleased to convert this cut of mine into a token one of Re. 1. My object in moving this cut is to draw the attention of the Government to certain outstanding features with regard to the administration of this Department.

Sir, the majority of the Special Finance Committee advocated the abolition of this Department because, according to them, it has now come to be a failure, and in their opinion there was no scope of mending the working of this Tramway. I understand the Government at first agreed and even passed orders to abolish the whole thing. But subsequent events showed that that action of the Government was not quite right. I mean that offers began to pour in from private people to take up the working of the Tramway to the benefit of the Government. I understand that even Mr. King (who has been responsible for the working of this Department) offered to take this up. This clearly showed to the Government that it would not be right to abolish the thing altogether. The Government, therefore, has decided to continue it for 1104 and probably even further than that. What I want to impress upon the Government is, if you carry on the thing as it is proposed to be done in 1104, you will have no reason to congratulate yourselves on the step you are taking.

What have you done, Sir, for the reconnoitring work suggested in the minute of the Diwan Peishkar? Of course you proposed to do it in 1105. Have you provided anything for next year?

M. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—We have issued orders to the Conservator of Forests.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Have you provided anything for the reconnoitring work that has to be done at once?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Delay is our characteristic.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—That alone will give you a satisfactory idea of the resources of our forest that could be tapped by the Tramway. It is a pity that you have not thought of it even though you had his valuable suggestions before you for the last two years. And again what about your unsatisfactory system of keeping accounts? Can you tell me, Sir, how much freight Tramway earns by transporting Sirkar timber? Should we not credit the same to Tramway and debit the same to the Forests?

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Now you want to show forest net revenue at Rs. 1,50,000. Are you debiting the freight that you have to pay to the Tramway?

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Is that not being done?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—It is not being adopted in the Forest Department.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—It has to be credited to one Department and debited to another. It is most irregular, I should say.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Have we got any data to show what exactly is the amount you would realise by the sale of Tramway transported timber? Why, I earnestly ask the Comptroller of Accounts, he has not insisted on the Forest Department to keep accounts in that fashion? That is sure to give us a clear idea of the real state of working of the Tramway.

Again who supervises and checks the expenditure incurred for the maintenance of the Tramway? The whole work of supplying materials, such as sleepers, fuel, coal, &c., is carried on departmentally at present. I believe this won't do. Is anybody supervising the work? He is the master of the whole situation, I suppose. Why do you not call for tenders for your sleepers, &c? Anyhow there must be a strong check placed upon the expenditure of that Department.

I am confident that, if we adopt these suggestions and work the Department, you will have no reason to think of abolishing the Tramway at least for some years to come.

Motion No. 9.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,09,568 for 'Tramway' by Re. 1.*

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Sir, may I follow the Hon'ble Member for Vellarappalli and support this motion, withdrawing motion No. 10 which stands in my name?

Deputy President.—Yes.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—No. 9 and not 10.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Sir, when I was saying a few words, dictated more or less by common sense, I was taken to task by an Hon'ble Member by charging me with attempting to do an impossible thing, which perhaps is justified, because what I am going to do is an impossible thing, at least for some Members, the Hon'ble Members concerned. What I am going to do is a thing impossible for others, but which, I think, is possible for me to do in the matter of this Tramway question. I mean to congratulate the Government on the decision it has taken to continue the Tramway. (*Hear, hear.*) I am not going to give the reasons for the congratulation, which I reserve for the Special Session of the Council, which is to be held very

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early, where this question can be discussed at length, and some definite conclusion arrived at. But in leaving this question, I add one sentence. My Hon'ble friend, the Member for Vellarappalli, said that this continuance of the Tramway might be not only for 1104 but for a number of years to come. I go a little further and say, for ever and for ever, as I shall be able to prove by facts and figures that it has never been a losing concern but it was a mis-managed concern. (*Hear, hear.*) I have collected figures which I can place before the House which will show that the whole net profit earned by the Tramway after paying the capital expenditure is something above 20 lakhs of rupees. (*Hear, hear.*) With these figures if properly put certainly no Government will come to the conclusion that it is to be done away ith as a 'White Elephant.' I am sure that the House in the Special Session of the House will be convinced that this is not a 'White Elephant,' as it has been said, but a really 'Black Elephant' hich has been doing substantial service to the people of the country and the Government of the country. Now I want to emphasise only one or two points. One point has already been emphasised by the Hon'ble Member for Vellarappalli, and that is what has been done with the valuable dissenting minute of the Diwan Peishkar, wherein he has defined certain lines of action before any definite step could be taken. First and foremost was a reconnoitring survey to see whether there is anything left after all. Now, it has been brought out before the Special Finance Committee that the anticipation upon which the scheme was sanctioned and undertaken has not been realised. Is it due to the fact that there was no timber in the forest that the produce brought down is smaller than was anticipated? Is it not a fact that there was nobody to bring that? If it is found that there is still innumerable quantity of timber that could be brought down, is it not proof positive that it was not brought down, because there was nobody to bring it? How did it happen that during the first ten years it was a paying concern, a profitable concern? How does it happen that for the next ten years it has been a losing concern? Does it not show that it has not been properly checked, organised and worked on business lines? We shall specify the ground that has already been trod by the Hon'ble Member for Vellarappalli, that is, the system of account keeping. What on earth is the meaning of debiting all expenses and crediting no income which is certainly legitimately due to the Tramway Department from the Forest Department? Now, if accounts are properly kept, certainly, it would be found that it has never been a losing concern. It will always be a profitable concern. I only wish to emphasise one point in this connection, and it is this, that is to say, the absolute ignorance of the De-

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partment with regard to the contents of the forests. I say this much because there has been no reconnoitring survey after the one that was undertaken by Mr. Alwar Chetty a quarter of a century ago. It was undertaken and subsequently insisted upon by Sir A. R. Banerji and Mr. Bhore. In spite of the fact that the dissenting minute of the Diwan Peishkar was before the Government for at least 2 years, the Finance Member in his illuminating speech says, "Having spent a large amount as capital outlay, it is our duty to see if it cannot be mended before it is ended, and this can be decided only after conducting a careful reconnoitring survey of the areas tapped by the Tramway to fully explore the possibility of the existence of any more valuable species of timber." When did this illumination dawn upon the minds of the Government? Is it two years after the report was put in their hands? The next sentence is the Government are considering the matter. Certainly Government should consider the matter. How long will you consider? You have considered for more than 2 years and after all, what is the work that has to be done—a reconnoitring survey which will not take more than three months, and this is the best season, I believe, for undertaking that. Why not Government say from hence-forward we will begin the work? In Vrischigam many people would not like to go to the forest, because it is fever time.

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—The Member for Forests has already explained that it will be started soon.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Why was it not started earlier? Therefore, what I respectfully beg to submit is I do not congratulate the Government for any act done intentionally and consciously. They have inadvertently fallen into the right path. If they had collected these materials, which would show that there is justification for working the Tramway, and if they had resolved to continue the Tramway, it would have been a deliberate act of statesmanship. Here you have unconsciously fallen into the right path.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Another word for gambling.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—I do not want to use any harsh words. What I respectfully beg to submit is, the moment it is undertaken, which work will take more than three months, the best season for it being now, there will be enough of material to justify the continuance of the Tramway not only for 1104 but for 1105 and ever afterwards.

Deputy President.—Have you anything further to say, Mr. Ramunni Menon?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—I have already stated when speaking on the Demand for "Forests" about the continuance of the Tramway, that we have got sufficient stock for next year

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and that the reconnoitring survey will be taken up early in Chingam.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Have we the assurance of the Forest Department in the matter of timber? If you are going to get enough, there is no question of profit on the Tramway. The whole depends on the Department.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—There is sufficient timber for the whole of next year.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Will the whole be brought down?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—The budgetted quantity will be brought down.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Will the Government also debit the amounts on the receipt side, which is not now shown?

Now only Rs. 15,000 is shown.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—They should change the whole system of account keeping.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—That will be credited.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—In the light of that assurance, I withdraw.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—As a matter of fact, it is not exhibited in the Treasury accounts. In the Administration Report we used to do that.

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—The Tramway and Forests both together, came under one head. Then subsequently, it was separated, and in separating the order was that the charges for that portion of Government timber should be shown. Now, they want to change that system.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The old order changeth yielding place to new.

(*The motion was, with leave, withdrawn.*)

Motions Nos. 4—6.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To omit the auotment of Rs. 15,000 for 'fuel'.*

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To omit the allotment of Rs. 200 for "furniture".*

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To omit the allotment of Rs. 4,800 for "scarcity allowance".*

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I withdraw all these.

(*Hence they were considered withdrawn.*)

Motion No. 7.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—*To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,09,568, for "Tramway".*

Deputy President.—Motion No. 7.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—I don't press.

(*Hence the motion was considered withdrawn.*)

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Deputy President.—Motions 8 and 9 finished. Bracketed with the first.

Motion No. 10.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 1,09,568 under "Demand No. X" by Re. 1.*

Deputy President.—Motion No. 10.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—I withdraw.

(*Hence the motion was considered withdrawn.*)

Motion No. 11.

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,14,600 for "Tramway" by Re. 1.*

Deputy President.—Motion No. 11.

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—I withdraw.

(*Hence the motion was deemed withdrawn.*)

Motion No. 12.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 1,14,600 under "Demand No. X" by Re. 1.*

Deputy President.—Motion No. 12, Mr. A. B. Salem.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I have only to bring to your notice one point. Sir, I want to know whether Mr. A. R. Joseph is given the contract in 1104 and whether any other tenders at lesser amounts than what he has contracted for were brought to the notice for carrying provisions, etc., into the forests.

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—Is it Tramway?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Yes, it is Tramway.

Deputy President.—What is the information that you want?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Whether one Mr. A. R. Joseph is given a contract on some special terms?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Contract for what, please?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Contract to fell 9,000 candies of timber for 1104. Is it correct?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—Is it for timber?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—For timber, and then he carries provisions by the Tramway and no charge is taken from him.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Is it? Surely all these things should be debited.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—It is not a fact.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know whether he has been allowed? I want to get an answer.

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—He has not been allowed to carry provisions without paying.

(*The motion was, with leave, withdrawn.*)

Deputy President.—That closes the Tramway.

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The question of granting the allotment under Tramway was put and agreed to.

Demand No. XI—Registration—Rs. 42,908.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Sir, I rise to move for an allotment of Rs. 42,908 under "XI—Registration". The reduction of Rs. 854 in the current year's budget as compared with that of 1103 is on account of the fact that the furniture to be purchased for Registry Offices is less.

Motion No. 1.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 42,908 under "Demand No. XI" by Re. 1.*

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—I rise to move for the separation of the Registrar-Magistrate's functions. Generally new recruits are sent as Registrar-Magistrates. Therefore, I quite agree with Mr. Justice P. Narayana Menon in thinking that it is bad in principle. Neither is it good policy to invest them with judicial powers. The more free and intimate the intercourse of the Registrars with the people about them, the better it is for both parties. But in the case of Munsiffs and Magistrates such freedom and intimacy are far from being desirable.

Sir, these recruits will be from the Bar, and they will be from the starving ranks of the profession, and they are expected to know everything as to what their conduct should be. Under such circumstances, the power that they are given should be separated. The more the Magistrates are not allowed to mix with the public, the better for them. The income under Registration is increasing, and only Rs. 50,000 is spent under Registration. Under these circumstances, I think, Government will appoint a separate officer.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—It is under the consideration of the Special Finance Committee.

(*The motion was, with leave, withdrawn.*)

The question of granting the allotment of Rs. 42,908 under "Demand No. 1", was put and agreed to.

Demand No. VII -Stamps—Rs. 52,395.

President.—Then 'Stamps'.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Sir, I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 52,395 under "VII—Stamps". There is nothing which calls for explanation. I request the House will grant the demand.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—May I know the attitude of the Government in regard to Stamp Papers, cards, envelopes, etc?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—We have got two dice in regard to printing of stamp papers. In the case of reply-cards we find now we have stock for two years and it is time to consider it. The Special Finance Committee has also recommended the local manufacture of stamps.

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Mr. M. K. Raman.—You have stocked already for two years, and why should you consider that?

Motions Nos. 1—4.

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 63,900 for 'Temporary Establishment' by Re. 1.*

Supplies and Services.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To omit the allotment of Rs. 40,000 for 'purchase of Stamps and Stamp papers.'*

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 40,000 for 'purchase of Stamps and Stamp papers' by Rs. 26,000*

Mr. M. K. Raman.— *Do* *Re. 1.*

(*All these were considered withdrawn since their movers were not pressed.*)

Question put.—"*That the allotment of Rs. 52,395 under 'Demand No. VII—Stamps' be granted.*

Question put and agreed to.

Demand No. XII—Anchal—Rs. 64,982.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Sir, I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 64,982 under 'Anchal'. It is only the normal expenditure that has been budgetted for. I request the House to pass the demand.

Motion No. 1

Supplies and Services.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 22,000 for 'the cost of Anchal and Service Stamps' by Rs. 2,000.*

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—I only wanted to know whether Government will print all Anchal Stamps locally. I withdraw.

(*The motion was, with leave, withdrawn.*)

Motion No. 2.

Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 64,982 under 'Demand No. XII' by Re. 1.*

Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—I move this cut motion to bring to the notice of the Government the necessity of introducing more Anchal Offices in the State. As it is, we are charging nearly double that of what is being charged in Travancore for Anchal Stamps and covers. Still we are not given as many Anchal Offices as we require in the State. In many of the villages, we get Anchal service only twice a week. That is very scanty, and we are not at all benefitted by this arrangement. As it is, only people in towns can take advantage of the system. In the case of a letter from Trichur we can get it the next day here. But if we want to correspond with people in country parts it is absolutely impossible. It might be said that the principle is that the Anchal Department should work on a commercial basis; but the Department should be taken as a whole and not the case of a particular office. We have already

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got a surplus of Rs.12,000, and if we introduce the local manufacture of stamps you will be able to get a surplus of Rs. 30,000, and we can spend all this money for having more Anchal Offices.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—One word in support of that motion. I am also for as many Anchal Offices. This paper in my hand shows that certain co-operative banks have undertaken to defray the expenses which would be incurred if an Anchal Office is established in a particular place. This communication accepting that security is dated the 19th Medam 1103. Even to-day no step has been taken for the establishment of an Anchal Office. All I understand, of course it is only understanding, about the thing is that the delay is due to the fact that interested parties are making representations not to have a new one established for fear their office will suffer. But in this case, it is not the question of the pecuniary loss of any. It is the look-out of the Government when the security is satisfactorily assured, to see that no moment is lost in establishing an Anchal Office. If the Government will kindly see to the point, of course, I am sure my Hon'ble friend will withdraw.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—I shall look into the matter. It has not come to the notice of the Government.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—In one day it will come up. Now it has come up.

(*The motion was withdrawn with leave.*)

Motion No. 3.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.— *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 64,982 for 'Anchal' by Re. 1.*

Deputy President.—Motion No. 3.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—I withdraw.

(*The motion was considered withdrawn.*)

Motion No. 4.

Mr. A. B. Salem.— *To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 70,400 under 'Demand No. XII' by Re. 1.*

Deputy President.—Motion No. 4, Mr. A. B. Salem.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Sir, I have moved this cut motion to bring to the attention of the Government that the office of the Superintendent of Anchal may be shifted to a central place like Trichur. I withdraw.

(*The motion was withdrawn with leave.*)

Deputy President.—The whole demand finished.

Question put:—*That the allotment of Rs. 64,982 under "Demand No. XII—Anchal" be granted.*

Question put and agreed to.

The House rose for lunch at 2 p. m. and met again at 3 p.m. when the President was in the Chair.

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